THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (aS No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Discretionary allotments are made by Government on compassionate grounds etc.

Marketing of oil by multinationals

3925. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow multinationals in marketing oil and petroleum products in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the small Oil Company has sent a proposal to directly market oil and petroleum products in India; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof

Oil

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKADANAND): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Shell Oil Company has proposed that they would set up a fully owned marketing subsidiary for selling their lube products.

Raising the price of indigenous group

3926. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has urged the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) to raise the price of indigenous crude oil;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Emploration of gas from Western Coast

3927. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the natural gas potential on the Western Coast, Statewise and the potential exploited during each of the last three years and the value of gas being wasted;

(b) what plan have been formulated for exploitation of gas potential on Western region during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra have made some proposals for utilisation of natural gas, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Gujarat is the only State on the Western Coast which is producing hydrocarbons, having established geological reserves of 195.4 billion cu. mts. of gas approx. The gas produced therein during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 was approx. 1613, 1697 and 1898 million cu. mts. respectively.

(b) The major scheme being implemented to exploit the potential is Gandhar phase-II.

(c) Government of Maharashtra have presented a proposal to bring 30 MMSCMD of offshore gas to a now landful point, Usar, for supply of gas to industries in Konkan region.

(d) The proposal has to be examined in the context of gas availability in the region.

Sanctioning of L.P.G. connection

3928. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken for the actual delivery of the L.P.G. connection to the

people whose L.P.G. connection has been released from the M.P's. quota;

(b) what steps are taken by Government when the person who has been sanctioned an L.P.G. connection lives at a place where there is no L.P.G. agency;

(c) whether all the L.P.G. agencies in the country are working in a proper manner; and

(d) if not, what steps have been taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) After receipt of priority voucher, an applicant can expect at LPG connection within 90 days.

(b) LPG conncetions are provided from the nearest LPG agency.

(c) and (d) Individual complaints as and when received are immediately enquired into and prompt remedial measures taken.

Allocation of Gas to Industries

3929. SHRI P. UPENDRA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large gap between the availability and allocation of gas to differnt industries;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate a long term policy to deal with the situation; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Almost all the available gas has been allocated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds invested by ONGC in foreign banks

3930. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI VENOD SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has been investing its surplus funds in foreign banks in violation of the normal practice of investing its funds in public sector units in the country;

(b) if so, what is the amount invested by the ONGC in foreign banks (with names of the banks), till date;

(c) what are the reasons for deviation from the practice of investing surplus funds in Public Sector units; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) According to ONGC, it has not invested any of its surplus funds in violotion of the normal practice and it invests its short term surplus funds in approved securities and therefore questions at (b) to (d) do not arise.

Passing of HBJ pipeline through Madhya Pradesh

3931. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded that the Bijaipur pipeline be passed through Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the precise demand and the extent of adjustment and realignment required to meet the said damand;

(c) what are the projects in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be set up thereby; and